



Docket No. 62894 (71589)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**APPLICANT:** Rioux et al.

**Confirmation No.:** 1401

**U.S.S.N.:** 09/935,487

**Art Unit:** 3738

**FILED:** August 23, 2001

**Examiner:** B. Pellegrino

**FOR:** MAINTAINING AN OPEN PASSAGEWAY THROUGH A BODY LUMEN

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

The following is in response to the Final Office Action mailed January 23, 2007 and the Advisory Action mailed April 9, 2007. Applicants kindly ask that the above-identified application be amended prior to examination as set forth herein.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.

**Conclusion** begins on page 7 of this paper.